

Kinship Care Works



Kinship caregivers – grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings, close friends – who take on the primary care for children also take on the role as parent. They’ve stepped up to raise children whose parents can no longer care for them. Kinship care helps protect children and maintains family bonds, cultural connections, and a sense of community. Children placed with family or close friends tend to do better than when placed in general foster care.

Children in kinship care:

1. Are more likely to stay with their siblings than in foster care.
2. Experience fewer moves than in foster care.
3. Are less likely to change schools.
4. Are less likely to run away.
5. Like living with family in kinship than foster care.
6. Are more likely to say that they feel loved.

Children do better in families. It’s a fundamental value that spans across all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic boundaries. Kinship care:

- Provides stability
- Develops a foundation for identity
- Establishes a sense of belonging
- Minimizes the stress and trauma of parental separation or loss.

This special care is imperative during a time of crisis.

With this new role of becoming a kinship caregiver comes an abundance of responsibilities for caregivers, and New York State offers resources, tips, and guides to support the mental health and wellness of you and the children.

